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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,745	07/21/2003	Breck Whitworth	WHI009	4715

7590 10/27/2004

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12471 Dillingham Square, #301
Woodbridge, VA 22192

EXAMINER

KATCHEVES, BASIL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/622,745

Applicant(s)

WHITWORTH, BRECK

Examiner

Basil Katcheves

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RLW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4,5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant has amended the claims in the paper entered on 9/1/04.
pending claims 1-20 are examined below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,794,217 to Croft in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,027,140 to Holzbach.

Regarding claim 4, Croft discloses a brace assembly as having a bore in the first end portion (fig. 4: 18) of the bar and the threaded rod (fig. 4: 26) received in the bore. Croft also discloses a threaded plate at the first end (fig. 4: 24), a threaded rod (fig. 4: 26), a foot plate (fig. 4: 28), However, Croft does not disclose the bar as being formed of wood. Holzbach discloses a brace having a wooden bar (fig. 1: 41), and a threaded rod (fig. 2: 5) as being received within a bore (fig. 2: 43) located at a first end of the bar. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Croft by making the bar from wood, as disclosed by Holzbach, in order to reduce weight and costs of the brace while protecting the brace from corrosion.

Regarding claim 5, Croft discloses the plate (fig. 4: 24) as being directly attached to the first end of the bar (fig. 4: 17).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 and 6-20 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/1/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding the rejected claims above, applicant argues the use of the prior art of Croft not being pressed directly against a panel. The intent of Croft is to use component 36 to directly brace a panel. However, as claimed, Croft meets the limitations of the claims since Croft is capable of performing in the same manner as that in claim 4. Applicant should note that the brace of claim 4 is not positively claimed as pressing against a panel. Therefore, Croft meets the limitations of this claim.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory

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action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Basil Katcheves whose telephone number is (703) 306-0232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman, can be reached at (703) 308-0832.

BK *BK*

10/25/04

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian E. Glessner", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**BRIAN E. GLESSNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**